

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An exchange-coupled film in which an antiferromagnetic layer and a ferromagnetic layer sandwich are stacked and in which a direction of magnetization of the ferromagnetic layer sandwich is
5 pinned,

wherein said ferromagnetic layer sandwich comprises a first ferromagnetic layer containing a ferromagnetic material of the body-centered cubic structure, and a pair of second ferromagnetic layers
10 containing a ferromagnetic material of the face-centered cubic structure and formed on respective sides of the first ferromagnetic layer, and

wherein said antiferromagnetic layer contains a disordered alloy and is kept in contact with one of
15 said second ferromagnetic layers.

2. The exchange-coupled film according to Claim 1, wherein the ferromagnetic layer sandwich further comprises a third ferromagnetic layer placed through a nonmagnetic intermediate layer on the opposite side to
20 the antiferromagnetic layer with the other second ferromagnetic layer in between.

3. A spin valve film comprising the exchange-coupled film as set forth in Claim 1; a nonmagnetic, conductive layer laid on the ferromagnetic layer sandwich of the exchange-coupled film; and a free layer
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laid on the nonmagnetic, conductive layer and containing a ferromagnetic material.

4. A thin film magnetic head comprising the spin valve film as set forth in Claim 3, and a pair of magnetic shield layers placed at positions where the spin valve film is sandwiched therebetween from both sides in a stack direction of the spin valve film, and containing a soft magnetic material.

5. The thin film magnetic head according to Claim 4, comprising a pair of electrode layers electrically connected to the spin valve film and adapted for allowing an electric current to flow parallel to a film surface of the spin valve film.

6. The thin film magnetic head according to Claim 4, comprising a pair of electrode layers electrically connected to the spin valve film and adapted for allowing an electric current to flow perpendicular to a film surface of the spin valve film.

7. A magnetic head apparatus comprising the thin film magnetic head as set forth in Claim 4; and a head supporting device for supporting the thin film magnetic head.

8. A magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus comprising the magnetic head apparatus as set forth in Claim 7; and a magnetic recording medium for implementing magnetic recording/reproduction in

collaboration with the thin film magnetic head of the magnetic head apparatus.